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24 February 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

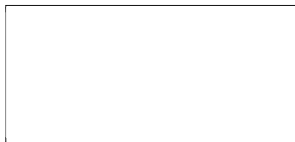
SUBJECT: Briefing on Soviet ABM Breakout Potential for
Special Panel on Arms Control of the House Armed
Services Committee

1. On 24 February 1984, DI analysts briefed the Special Panel on Arms Control and Disarmament of the Subcommittee on Procurement and Military Nuclear Systems, House Committee on Armed Services. The topic was the Soviet ABM breakout potential. Rep. Jim Courter (R., NV) had requested the briefing as a follow-up to the Administration's report to Congress in January on Soviet arms control violations. The briefing took place at 10:00 a.m., Room 2337 Rayburn House Office Building. A transcript was taken. (C)

2. Attending from the Panel were:

Beverly B. Byron (D., MD), Chairman
Richard Ray (D., GA)
Robert E. Badham (R., CA)

CIA briefers were:



Office of Soviet Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence (SOVA/DDI)
DDI/SOVA
Office of Scientific and Weapons
Research (OSWR/DDI)

25X1

Attending from the Subcommittee staff were Adam Klein and Georgia Osterman. (C)

R.C.

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3. The briefing was divided into two parts. [redacted] 25X1 introduced the briefers and moderated the session. The first part consisted of a briefing with vu-graphs on Soviet ballistic missile defense activities by [redacted]. He discussed the Soviets' traditional interest in strong defensive forces. He then elaborated on Soviet activity in research as well as in production of ballistic missiles, leading perhaps to eventual widespread deployment of a defensive missile system. [redacted] 25X1 also discussed Moscow ABM defenses, the large radar under construction in the Pushkino area, new phased-array radars around the periphery of the USSR and deployment of the SA-X-12. Mr. [redacted] emphasized, however, that as of yet there is no confirmation that the Soviets have made a decision to break out of the ABM Treaty. (S) 25X1

4. [redacted] 25X1 briefing covered Soviet directed-energy weapons, including their application to anti-satellite missions. He described Soviet R&D efforts in technologies for nonconventional ballistic missile defenses from the mid-sixties to the present. He also stated that their present programs may lead to advanced weapons which could replace Soviet conventional defenses in the next century. (S)

5. There were no follow-up questions and the briefing ended with a note of appreciation from the Chairman. (U)

[redacted] 25X1
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

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